

NSC BRIEFING

22 September 1954

INDOCHINA

I. Flagrant and clear-cut Viet Minh violation of Indochina cease-fire agreement occurred recently in Laos.

A. Article 2 of agreement specifies cease-fire throughout Laos, effective 6 August.

1. Laotian Legation here, on 16 September, told press of protest lodged with International Commission over "violent" attack against Laotian forces on 8, 9, and 10 September.

2. Dates and locations slightly different, but attacks probably same as those reported by army attache Saigon, two in Phong Saly province, northern Laos, one in neighboring Sam Neua province.

3. These provinces set aside by Agreement for concentration of Pathet Lao troops.

DIA review(s) completed.

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- a. Laotian declaration at Geneva clearly establishes Royal Government's right to continued administration these provinces.
- b. Viet Minh takes position Laotian forces these provinces are "bandits," wants exclusion all government influence.

II. Incidents in Laos are only most publicized of numerous Viet Minh violations.

A. In Vietnam, cessation of hostilities by 27 July in north, 1 August in center, 11 August in south, specified by Article 11 of agreement.

1. Army attache has reported following violations.

- a. On 2 August, 300 guerrillas attacked post near Haiphong.
- b. On 13 August, Vietnamese troops ambushed in South Vietnam.
- c. On 14 August, another ambush in south.

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- d. On 15 August, Central Vietnam railway guardpost south of Nhatrang attacked and destroyed.
 - e. During period 15-21 August, several attacks in Central and South Vietnam.
 - f. On 22 August, watch tower in South Vietnam harassed by unidentified elements.
- B. Vietnam agreement's Article 17, although allowing piece-for-piece replacement of war materiel, prohibits introduction of any reinforcing war materiel.

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C. Article 21 Vietnam agreement provides for liberation and repatriation all prisoners of war within 30 days of cease-fire in each area.

1. To date, Viet Minh has released only 9,635 troops of approximately 55,000

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[redacted] unaccounted for.

D. Article 5 of Cambodian agreement specifies demobilization of Khmer dissident forces by 23 August.

1. This still not complied with; in fact, [redacted] Viet Minh supplying new arms to these local dissidents, allowing some old ones to be turned in.

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